CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA, IN HIS CAPACITY AS COORDINATOR OF THE GROUP OF 21, ON THE ITEM "NUCLEAR TEST BAN", ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A WORKING PAPER ENTITLED "STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 21 IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON A NUCLEAR TEST BAN ON 16 DECEMBER 1994"

In my capacity as Coordinator of the Group of 21 on agenda item "Nuclear Test Ban", I have the pleasure in submitting herewith a Group of 21 Working Paper entitled "Statement of Group of 21 in the Ad hoc Committee on Nuclear Test Ban on 16 December 1994".

I would be grateful if this Working Paper could be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the Working Paper of the Ad hoc Committee on Nuclear Test Ban.

(Signed): Satish Chandra
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.95-60375

Working Paper

Statement of Group of 21 in the Ad hoc Committee on Nuclear Test Ban on 16 December 1994

The Group of 21 welcomes the First Committee resolution A/C.1/49/L.22/Rev.1 (General Assembly resolution 49/70) on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty adopted without a vote. The Group reiterates its call upon the members of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the Nuclear Weapon States, to urgently conclude the negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty during 1995.

In the context of discussions during the intersessionals the Group would like to reiterate that the verification system under a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty should be universal in its application, non-discriminatory in character and should guarantee equal access to all States. It should be internationally supervised and technically effective. The verification regime should also be cost effective so that the States parties are not over-burdened by an expensive verification regime.

Further, the Group notes with disappointment the US proposal for simplified withdrawal procedures submitted in the Ad hoc Committee on NTB on 17 August 1994 and reflected under Article on Review of the Treaty on page 56 of CD/1273/Rev.1, dated 5 September 1994. The Group is of the view that this proposal is a serious setback to the ongoing negotiations as it undermines the Treaty and affects its credibility as an effective disarmament and non-proliferation regime as well as its universalisation. The Group further hopes that the above proposal and the advocacy of exceptions to nuclear tests would be withdrawn in the interest of an early conclusion of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.